



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2005

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AUSTIN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Steven Keith Hawkins of Austin, Texas, pleaded guilty today in federal court in Austin to two counts of distributing child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography. As a result of his guilty pleas, Hawkins faces a minimum of 5 years and up to 50 years in federal prison and a maximum \$750,000 fine.

Hawkins admitted that on two occasions, in May 2004 and February 2005, he distributed numerous images of child pornography over the Internet to another user in the State of California, both by directly transmitting computer files of child pornography images to that person and by forwarding links to websites he knew contained child pornography. On June 14, 2005, a federal search warrant was executed at Hawkins' residence in Austin, which revealed that Hawkins knowingly possessed numerous graphic digital videos and still images of child pornography on his personal computer, mostly depicting the sexual abuse of prepubescent children.

Hawkins also admitted that he had viewed at least one actual molestation of a child by an adult male via Internet web-camera, and had communicated with others over the Internet about viewing and engaging in sexual relations with children. Hawkins acknowledged he tried to arrange for a child under the age of 3 to be brought to Texas so that he and another adult male could have sexual relations with the toddler. Since his arrest, Hawkins has been ordered detained pending disposition of his case. Sentencing for Hawkins has not yet been scheduled.

This case was investigated by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigation, and the Sacramento Valley Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Devlin is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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